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Message Text

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64
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9842
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
USNMR SHAPE
USINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
DIA WASHDC//DI-5//

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2871

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR CY GR
SUBJ: STRENGTHENING CLERIDES POSITION: ATHENS' ROLE

1. PATTERN OF RECENT EVENTS SUGGESTS DELIBERATE ATHENS EFFORT TO SHORE UP GREEK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY, AND CLERIDES POSITION.

2. LABRIAS STATEMENT LAST WEEK TO EFFECT THAT GOG (1) GIVES CLERIDES "MORAL, POLITICAL, AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" AND (2) REGARDS CLERIDES GOVT AS LAWFUL REGIME OF ISLAND "PENDING MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION OF SITUATION" STRUCK VERY POSITIVE CHORD LOCALLY. CLERIDES ADVISOR CHRISTODOULOU CONFIRMED THIS, CLAIMED STATEMENT HAD QUICKLY EASED SOME PRESSURES OPERATING AGAINST CLERIDES DUE UNCERTAINTY IN KAMARIOSITE, OTHER CIRCLES RE ATHENS' TRUE POSITION. INDICATIVELY, GRIVASITE PAPER "ETHNIKI" HAILED STATEMENT FOR SIMILAR REASONS.

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3. WE SUSPECT ATHENS' HAND IN MAKARIOS' SEPT 2 CALL FOR (1) UNITY

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AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS AND (2) SUPPORT FOR CLERIDES WHO "LAWFULLY CARRYING OUT DUTIES OF PRES UNDER CONSTITUTION" IN FORMER'S ABSENCE. GREEK EMBOFF ADMITTED STATEMENT HAD FOLLOWED STRONG ATHENS URGING THAT MAKARIOS SAY SOMETHING CONCILIATORY IN WAKE OF NEAR-ASSASSINATION OF LEFTIST WILDMAN LYSSARIDES. CLERIDES, GOCYPRUS MEDIA HAILED MAKARIOS STATEMENT. ALL GREEK PRESS PLAYED IT UP AS MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO COOLING OFF INTRAGREEK PASSIONS. INTRIGUINGLY, EVEN "ETHNIKI" RAN STATEMENT AS MAIN STORY, USING MAKARIOS' NAME (NO TITLE) WITHOUT PEJORATIVE CONTEXT FOR FIRST TIME IN LONG WHILE.

4. WIDELY REPORTED HERE THAT GOGREECE, THROUGH NG COMMAND, HELPING CLERIDES' SECURITY FORCES IN NEW CAMPAIGN TO DISARM, DISMANTLE ALL IRREGULAR ARMED BANDS, INCLUDING "SPECIAL CONSTABLES" APPOINTED AFTER JULY 15. THOUGH ATHENS NEWS AGENCY HAS DENIED THAT NG ENGAGES IN "POLICING" OF CYPRUS, BOTH CLERIDES ADVISOR CHRISTODOULOU AND GOGREECE EMB CONFIRM THAT NG LEADERSHIP HAS ASSURED FULL COOPERATION IN THIS CAMPAIGN TO REIMPOSE LAW AND ORDER. CHRISTODOULOU SAYS THAT EOKA-B, TOO, HAS GIVEN TACIT BLESSING TO CAMPAIGN, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT. (WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHAT ROLE ATHENS CIRCLES HAVE PLAYED IN THIS DECISION.)

5. COMMENT: WE WOULD GUESS THAT ATHENS EFFORTS TO STABILIZE GREEK CYPRUS (AND ITS LEADER) DESIGNED MEET ALL FUTURE CONTINGENCIES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKS. AS BEST WE CAN TELL, ALL REPEAT ALL LOCAL GOGREECE INSTRUMENTS ARE FOLLOWING THIS POLICY. DESPITE SOME ATMOSPHERIC IMPROVEMENTS, THOUGH, CLERIDES' POSITION REMAINS SHAKY, AS HE IS WELL AWARE. INTERNECINE STRIFE STILL OCCURS IN GREEK COMMUNITY HERE: E.G., SEPT 3 MAKARIOSITE MOB MOVED IN ON PAPHOS BISHOPRIC, CREATING MINI-INCIDENT. RE PARA 3 ABOVE, WE STRUCK BY HOW MUCH MAGIC STILL ATTACHES TO MAKARIOS NAME, AND HOW ALL FACTIONS HASTENED TO USE BOTH NAME AND STATEMENT FOR OWN PURPOSES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NICOSI02871
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740245-0909
From: NICOSIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740976/aaaacmfs.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRENGTHENING CLERIDES POSITION: ATHENS' ROLE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, (CLERIDES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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